

**BEST AVAILABLE COPY****REMARKS**

Careful consideration has been given by the applicant to the Examiner's comments and rejection of various claims, as set forth in the outstanding Office Action, and favorable reconsideration and allowance of the application, as amended, is earnestly solicited.

Applicant notes the Examiner's requirement for confirmation of the election by the applicant in replying to the present Office Action.

Accordingly, in conformance with the Examiner's requirements pursuant to 35 U.S.C. §121, applicant hereby affirms the election of Group I, comprising Claims 1-13, drawn to a bundle of cables, as classified in Class 385, Subclass 115.

Concerning the foregoing, applicant has also taken note of the Examiner's entry of the previous Amendment, which was agreed upon during the interview on November 23, 2005.

Furthermore, in reviewing the Office Action, applicant notes the rejection of Claims 1-5 and 7-13 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b), as being allegedly anticipated by Langen, et al., U.S. Patent No. 4,997,689, as detailed in the Office Action; and the rejection of Claim 6 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a), as being unpatentable over Langen, et al., as applied to the previous claims set forth hereinabove and further in view of Hillburn, U.S. Patent No. 5,321,202, as discussed in the Office Action.

Accordingly, upon careful consideration of the art, applicant respectfully takes issue with the Examiner's citation thereof and notes that both of these cited U.S. patents, rather than being applicable to the invention, teach directly away from the inventive concept, as disclosed and claimed herein.

In particular, applicant notes that the claims, as presented herein, relate to bundled cables, which are adhesively fastened to a central member, which is generally in the form of a substantially flexible strip having an adhesive coating or surface on at least one side thereof, wherein the adhesive

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may be heat treatable to provide a generally semi-permanent bonding or attachment of the cables to the central member. However, the cables are externally accessible to facilitate the manual stripping away of or detachment of one or more of the cables from the central member or strip without causing the detachment of the remaining adhesively attached cables. The present invention is particularly designed, as also described in the specification, having specific reference to the "Summary of the Invention" on Page 3, Lines 9-16, of avoiding the necessity from providing an outer casing or sheath, which has the disadvantage of requiring the sheath having to be stripped or slit open in order to gain access to cables interiorly thereof. To the contrary, the simple adhesive tape or flexible central strip member is designed for the purpose of providing a semi-permanent attachment element for the respective cables, as the latter are conducted or travel by being fed through ducting or other similar enclosed spaces, and which will enable the termination or connections of various of the cables by pulling portions thereof from the strip member without in any manner having to splice open or remove any external casing or sheath components.

To the contrary, although superficially there is a similarity of various materials employed attaching and bundling cables to a central member, as is generally known in the state-of-the-art, and wherein applicants do not particularly claim the novelty of the materials per se, the prior art is exactly that discussed with regard to the state of the technology prior to the novel improvement presented by the present invention

Reverting to the primary reference of record, Langen, et al., U.S. Patent No. 4,997,689, this patent discloses pluralities of cables generally in a parallel relationship to each other being attached to a flat flexible sheet-like member which may be constituted of preferably three materials, such as an adhesive, a kneadable plastic and a release paper layer, which are then rolled up with the cables adhering thereto, and then encased within a heat-shrinkable hose member or similar sheath,

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which has been wound into a hose configuration, and then by a treatment consisting of application of heat which will melt the adhesive and cause the kneadable material to expand so as to fill all of the spaces and voids within the heat-shrinkable hose member to thereby form a sealed structure within the hose member or casing, the latter of which forms a jacketing structure. This is opposite to the present teachings, which avoids the use of a kneadable plastic material or adhesive that will expand under heat to close off spaces within a heat-shrinkable hose member or sleeve and wherein the open area about the cables. Pursuant to the present invention, the cables are semi-permanently attached to a flexible central strip or member by means of an adhesive, and are exposed so as to enable the manual peeling away of selective cables from the central strip or member without having to either remove or slice open any encompassing containment or sleeve portion. To the contrary, in comparison with the present invention, the structure of the Langen, et al. patent is such that upon the slicing open of the exterior heat-shrinkable hose member or casing, all of the cables would have to be exposed and stripped, inasmuch as they are fully bonded to each other and sealingly encompassed by the expanded heat-meltable, kneadable and subsequently cooled adhesive. Langen, et al. would inhibit or completely prevent any peeling away or detachment of selective of the cables from other cables without possibly damaging the remaining cables, and also necessitates that an enclosing sealing hose member be spliced open at the various locations.

Furthermore, pursuant to the present invention, as set forth in the amended claims, contrary to Langen, et al., there is no disclosure nor any suggestion of rolling up sheets having pluralities of cables adhesively attached thereto in a parallel extending manner, which are then compressed within a heat-shrinkable container, so as to cause the kneadable plastic material interiorly thereof to expand and to fill any voids under the application of heat. This has absolutely nothing in common with the present invention, as set forth and claimed herein, wherein the aspect of

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the semi-permanent bonding or attachment of the cables to the flexible central strip member is clearly elucidated in the claims, and which unambiguously and patentably distinguish over Langen, et al.

With regard to Hillburn, U.S. Patent No. 5,321,202, this patent also discloses a central member having cables circumferentially spaced thereabout in a longitudinal parallel manner and encompassed by a sealing sleeve member with all interior voids filled with sealant, and which must be cut or spliced open in order to provide access to any cables contained therein.

Again, this teaches away from the present invention, which avoids that type of construction or containment sleeve forming a sealed arrangement, as is discussed in the present application as representative of the state of the technology.

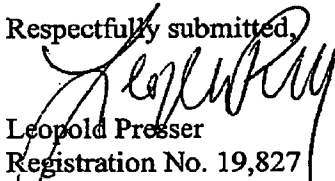
Accordingly, in order to clearly and unambiguously distinguish over the art, although the latter is not deemed in any manner to be applicable to the invention, as set forth and claimed herein, applicant has implemented revisions to the claims to emphasize the particular structure of the cables being essentially externally accessible when attached to a flexible central member or adhesive strip so as to enable the ready manual grasping thereof and the detachment from the central strip in a selective mode by means of a manual operation, without in any manner having to remove any external containment or sealing sleeve or casing structure.

In view of the foregoing comments and amendments, which are deemed to clearly and unambiguously place the claims into condition for allowance, the early and favorable reconsideration of the application and issuance of the Notice of Allowance by the Examiner is earnestly solicited.

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However, in the event that the Examiner has any queries concerning the instantly submitted Amendment, applicant's attorney respectfully requests that he be accorded the courtesy of possibly a telephone conference to discuss any matters in need of attention.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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